## REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the entry and consideration of the present Amendment After Notice of Allowance Under 37 CFR §1.312.

The present amendment amends pages 7 and 19 in the present specification. The passages that have been amended previously indicated that Figures 1-4 were present in the application. However, the Preliminary Amendment that was filed with the present application substituted Figures 1-4 of the drawings with an attached sheet containing Figures 1 and 2. Accordingly, the present disclosure no longer contains Figures 3 and 4. Thus, the present amendment amends pages 7 and 19 so that it is correctly noted that Figures 1 and 2 are the only figures present in the application.

The requested amendments to the specification are needed so that there are no inconsistencies between the number of figures present in the application relative to the number of figures identified as being present in the specification.

No additional search and examination are believed to be required as the proposed amendment affects only the specification and do not in any way alter the scope of the claims.

All claims in the application remain patentable as their scope is unaltered by the requested changes to the figures.

The present amendment was not earlier presented because the inconsistencies were only brought to applicants' attention by the Examiner after the allowance of the present application and

Docket No. 1501-1170 Appln. No. 09/424,760

payment of the issue fee.

. . . . .

While applicants understand that the issue fee has already been paid in the present application, applicants note that MPEP \$714.16(e) states that the Office of Patent Publication (PUBS) has been delegated the authority to waive the requirement of 37 CFR \$1.312 and accept an amendment filed after payment of the issue fee. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the present amendment be entered and fully considered.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone listed below.

Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, The concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

Philip Dubois, Reg. No. 50,696 745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street

Arlington, VA 22202

Telephone (703) 521-2297

Telefax (703) 685-0573

(703) 979-4709

PD/lk